



VCSPD News

Edition 1

Autumn 2014

Welcome to our new look Newsletter!

Top stories

- **Befriending—growing our service!**
- **We're a quality act - PQASSO!**
- **Staff profile—all about Alistair**
- **Win a £50 prize in our Photo Competition!**

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Hi

For those of you who haven't met me yet, I'm Debbie Hackett, the new(ish) Volunteering Development Manager. I started in October 2013 and after working my way through a long list, I've finally got around to reinstating the newsletter - and it's long overdue - I think the last one was De-

ember 2012!

I want this to be a newsletter for everyone, so whether you are a staff member or a volunteer, please feel free to send me letters, pictures, articles of interest and I will try to fit them in.

We will be having a regular Q and A on one of our colleagues each time, and also an

update on staff and volunteer changes, so do let me know about those.

I'll also be keeping you updated with important news items that relate to VCSPD.

So do get in touch - we need your input to make this newsletter work!

Debbie

FREE Volunteer Passport Training!

Not many things in life are free, but VCSPD can offer something valuable that any volunteer can take advantage of.

Volunteer Passport Training is accredited by Derbyshire County Council. There is a course for those working with adults, in places like care homes, day centres or as befrienders, and another

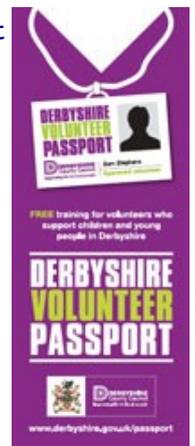
aimed at those working with children. Training normally takes place as a 3 hr session one day a week for 5 weeks, and covers topics like Health and Safety, Getting Opinions, First Aid, Equality and Inclusion.

Successful completion gets you a certificate and ID badge from DCC, showing you are approved to work with that client group.

Why not take advantage and get a useful qualification for your CV?

Contact

debbie@vcspd.org or call 01298 23970 for more details.



That's what friends are for.....

1 in 10 people over 65 nowadays say they are lonely, (Age UK statistics) and this is now recognized as being a contributing factor towards all sorts of health issues. Disabled people are also at risk of isolation, and the days can seem to be endless when you see no-one.

But we can help. Our Befriending Service is expanding, due to receiving extra funding from Derbyshire Trusted Befriending Network. We are looking for sociable, friendly folks who like to chat and could spend at least an hour a week with a lonely, isolated person. We'll be there to offer you full training and sup-

port, and your mileage expenses can be covered up to a reasonable distance.

Rachael and Jackie run our Befriending project. "Getting a visit from one of our befrienders could really make someone's day. Just having a cuppa, a walk, or lunch with someone really makes a difference". If you can help, call 01298 23970.



1 in 10 people over 65 say they are lonely - that's just over a million people (Age UK)

Calling all budding photographers !

Do you fancy yourself as the next David Bailey or Rankin?!

Then this is your chance to shine by entering our fabulous photo competition, **'Volunteering in the Derbyshire Peaks and Dales'**.

We need your photographs to help us celebrate the work that volunteers do in the Peaks and Dales. The photographs should demonstrate aspects of what volunteering is all about, from the volunteers themselves, to the or-

ganisations you volunteer for, and the beneficiaries of your voluntary work.

The winner will receive a £50 cash prize and a £50 donation to the charity of their choice. The twelve top photographs will be published as a 2015 calendar, which will be available from our Buxton and Ashbourne offices.

Entries will be on display in our offices during Sep-

tember. Closing date for entries is 31 August



2014.

Closing date: 31st August 2014. For details and entry form call 01298 23970 or 01335 348602 or collect from our offices in Buxton or Ashbourne.

Happy Birthday.....

To any volunteers born in August, September and October - we were going to namecheck you, but there's too many to fit on the page!

Wheelchair hire now available in Ashbourne

We are now able to offer wheelchair hire to members of the public from our Ashbourne office. This is a free service, however, there will be a £10 refundable deposit on collection and hirers will be asked for ID. For more information call 01335 348602.

Driving Miss Daisy (or Edna, or Bert)

Our Transport Service, which offers transport to older people or those with a disability, who can't access public transport, continues to go from strength to strength and demand is higher than ever. But we really do need more drivers to help us cope. We especially need people who can drive our wheelchair enabled tilly and minibus, or would

be willing to undertake training to learn. You will need a full UK licence, and be aged between 21 and 70. Car drivers are also always welcome!

Howard Gunn, our Transport Manager, says "Being a volunteer driver for VCSPD really is a smart move. We can give you certificated MIDAS training in mini-bus driving and all driv-

ers will also learn lots more about maintaining their cars."

The amount of driving you do is up to you, so you can fit it around your other commitments.

For more details call Howard or Claire on 01298 23970 or email transport@vcspd.org



Quality Street!

VCSPD are proud to announce that we have just been awarded PQASSO Quality Mark Level 2. This award



shows that VCSPD has met the Hallmarks of an Effective Charity criteria, which covers areas such as governance, policies and procedures, as well as services to clients.

A vast amount of preparation went into this before the assessors

came and all the staff involved were totally committed to making sure we were up to scratch, pulling together huge files of evidence. The effort obviously paid off and we can now say we really are a quality act!

Latest volunteering opportunities

Poppy Appeal Delivery and Collection Volunteers - Royal British Legion - assisting local Poppy Appeal Organisers in the period around Remembrance day

Oxfam Retail Volunteer - Buxton Oxfam shop - help this busy shop with till, stockroom and display and maybe get an NVQ while you do it!

Walk leaders - High Peak Walking for Health - to lead short walks as part of a national initiative promoting gentle exercise to get people active.

Treasurer - Lane End Farm Trust, Hope Valley, nr Hathersage - help this local charity working with disabled and disadvantaged young people, by overseeing the finances.

For more details on any of these contact debbie@vcspd.org, tel: 01298 23970

*"If you think
you're too
small to have
an impact, try
going to bed
with a
mosquito"*
Anita Roddick,
founder of the Body
Shop and human
rights activist

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This will be a regular feature in each issue, focusing on a staff member or volunteer. We hope it will help everyone get to know each other better!

Alistair Rogerson is our Deputy Chief Executive Officer. A man of many parts, the most commonly heard question in the Buxton office is 'Where's Alistair?!' We managed to pin him down for a few moments to ask him to tell us more about himself.

You always seem to be on the move - can you describe a typical day?

All About Alistair



Busy! It's always fast paced. I look after Handy Van, Home Maintenance and Cleaning Service, and Business development and funding bids, work experience, etc.!

What got you into the charity sector?

I was running a small website and looking for part-time work. I like helping people and saw this as a role that would let me do that.

What opportunities do you see for VCSPD in the future?

I think that depends on our imagination and com-

mitment. There's a lot of potential and I think that we should view funding cuts as an opportunity to develop new ideas.

And what do you do in your free time (if you have any)?

I have a baby - what free time?! But when I can I like walking, DIY, and baking! I'm also addicted to the 'Right Move' website!

New Faces

Jayne Wilkins - Reception, Buxton office

Ian Riley - Home Maintenance

Movers and shakers

Claire Randall - now our Transport Assistant as well as helping organize Handy Van (busy lady)!

And sad farewells....

Gary Ryan - we shall miss his cheerful face at Reception

Corrine Wicks - now in employment, so Reception's loss is someone else's gain!

Barry Clay - decided to retire from Home Maintenance for health reasons but we shall miss his banter!

Wendy Bullar (Ashbourne) - our Readycall Macmillan coordinator is leaving - thanks

**We're on the
web!**

www.vcspd.org

